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Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee)

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 4 October 2018, at 10 a.m.

Chair: Mr. Alhakbani (Vice-Chair) ..... (Saudi Arabia)
later: Mr. Kemayah, Sr. ..... (Liberia)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 5: Election of the officers of the Main Committees

1. **The Chair** said that the meeting had been convened for the purpose of electing the Chair of the Fourth Committee for the seventy-third session of the General Assembly following the resignation of the Permanent Representative of Liberia before the beginning of the session, and to address organizational matters related to the work of the Committee.

2. The nomination of Mr. Kemayah, Sr. (Liberia) for the office of Chair had been endorsed by the Group of African States.

3. *Mr. Kemayah, Sr. (Liberia) was elected Chair by acclamation.*

4. *Mr. Kemayah, Sr. (Liberia) took the Chair.*

5. **The Chair** said that the election of Liberia to preside over the work of the Committee for the first time in 57 years marked a major step for the country towards regaining its place in the comity of nations and fulfilling its aspiration to contribute to global initiatives aimed at promoting peace, security and development.

Organization of work (A/73/250; A/C.4/73/1; A/C.4/73/INF/1; A/C.4/73/L.1)

6. **The Chair** drew attention to the agenda items allocated to the Committee (A/C.4/73/1), to the list of documents before the Committee (A/C.4/73/INF/1) and to the Committee's proposed programme of work (A/C.4/73/L.1). He then drew attention to the relevant rules and recommendations of the General Assembly regarding the work of the Main Committees, as contained in the report of the General Committee (A/73/250) and in Assembly decision 34/401 and resolutions 58/316, 69/321 and 72/313, and said that the Committee would comply with them strictly.

7. The Committee would continue the practice of holding interactive dialogues under the agenda items relating to outer space, information, peacekeeping, special political missions, the University for Peace, the effects of atomic radiation, as well as to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories.

8. He took it that the Committee wished to approve the proposed programme of work (A/C.4/73/L.1).

9. *It was so decided.*

10. As at previous sessions, the Committee would set up a working group of the whole to prepare draft resolutions for submission under agenda item 53, entitled "International cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space". The working group would be chaired by the delegation of Mexico in its capacity as Chair of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. He took it that the Committee wished to establish the group.

11. *It was so decided.*

12. **The Chair** noted that, in approving its programme of work, the Committee had decided to hold one general debate covering all agenda items relating to decolonization, namely items 59 to 63, enabling members to speak on any or all of those agenda items at any meeting devoted to the topic.

Requests for hearing

13. **The Chair** informed the Committee that he had received 155 communications containing requests for hearing relating to the questions of French Polynesia, Gibraltar, Guam, New Caledonia, the Turks and Caicos Islands and Western Sahara under item 63. He suggested that, in accordance with the usual practice, the communications should be circulated as Committee documents for consideration at the subsequent meeting.

14. *It was so decided.*

15. **The Chair** said that he had also received communications from the President of French Polynesia, the Chief Minister of Gibraltar, the Premier of Montserrat and the President of New Caledonia, who wished to address the Committee under agenda item 63. Their statements would be scheduled accordingly.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.